

October 3, 1973

Mr. Sargent Shriver,
The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation
1701 K Street
Suite 205
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Sarge,

I am sure that the rather desperate situation of basically oriented biomedical research is no news to you at the present time. I had some communication with you earlier at the time of my testimony to Representative Rogers's Committee concerning the demise of the NIH training grants.

The political situation looks very gloomy with respect to prospects for the restoration of federal funding to its former levels for work like that in our laboratories. We are able to survive more or less effectively from hand to mouth, but it is obvious that we have to seek backup funding from non-federal sources if we are to have any stability in the future. I do not have to recite all of the problems that are peripheral to the situation, the various issues that have clouded the progress of fundamental medical research.

I have too much respect and consideration for the prior generosity of your foundation to be passing the hat to you again for operating funds. However, I would like to take the opportunity to bring you up-to-date about our present activities and efforts to sustain our research programs, and also to ask if you have any suggestions about other possible donors. Stanford is now undertaking a major funding campaign on a university-wide basis, and in that context I have prepared a few statements about the activities that we hope might be able to participate in philanthropic generosity.

The most comprehensive effort is detailed in the enclosed book, which is a "Proposal for a Genetics Research Center" which is under consideration now by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. I have no doubts about the favorable reading that this will receive on a scientific basis -- we had a site visit here a few weeks ago -- but it is, of course, very problematical whether funds will be available to the institute to enable funding of even part of this proposal. The chance of being able to go the whole way is very, very low and we therefore must prudently be looking for other backup.

Besides helping to serve as the basis of an appeal, these documents may also serve a more positive function of bringing you up-to-date with respect to the current activities of the laboratories that were founded by the Kennedy Foundation's gift.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

Joshua Lederberg